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Employment Situation, April 1984

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Employment Security

Maine Division of Economic Analysis and Research

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BATH-BRUNSWICK LABOR MARKET AREA

Employment increases in shipbuilding, contract construction, retail trade, services, and government all helped to boost resident employment in the Bath-Brunswick Labor Market Area from 22,070 in March to 23,030 in April. Unemployment in the area dropped from 1,530 to 1,280, with the resulting unemployment rate falling from 6.5 percent to 5.3 percent. This marked the third consecutive monthly decline in the local unemployment rate and is the lowest unemployment rate recorded in the labor market area since September 1983. Last year at this time, 1,560 local residents were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 6.2 percent. Meanwhile, both the state and national unemployment rates declined in April. Nationally, the unemployment rate dropped to 7.6 percent from 8.1 percent in March, while Maine's unemployment rate fell to 7.5 percent in April from 8.4 percent in March.

BIDDEFORD-SANFORD LABOR MARKET AREA

During April employment in the Biddeford-Sanford Labor Market Area improved somewhat, largely due to seasonal growth in nonmanufacturing. Resident employment increased from 30,900 in March to 32,300 in April, while unemployment fell from 2,900 to 2,400. The resulting unemployment rate of 6.9 percent was down from 8.6 percent the previous month and 10.0 percent a year ago. For the first time this year the local unemployment rate was below both the state and national rates of 7.5 percent and 7.6 percent, respectively. Manufacturing employment grew only slightly, while nonmanufacturing employment increased measurably, paced by seasonal gains in retail trade, services, and contract construction.

LEWISTON-AUBURN STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

Labor market conditions in the Lewiston-Auburn Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) improved for the third successive month in April. Resident employment increased from 36,400 in March to a new "all time high" of 37,600 in April. Since January 1984, resident employment has increased by 3,100--more than making up for lost employment of 1,700 during the recessionary downturn of 1980-1982. Total joblessness in the area fell from 3,100 in March to 2,700 in April. As a result, the local unemployment rate dropped from 7.8 percent to 6.7 percent, the lowest rate recorded in the SMSA since November 1981 when the unemployment rate was 6.5 percent. Meanwhile, both state and national unemployment rates declined in April. Nationally, the unemployment rate dropped to 7.6 percent from 8.1 percent in March, while Maine's unemployment rate fell to 7.5 percent in April from 8.4 percent in March. Between March and April local nonfarm wage and salary employment increased by 500 jobs. Employment gains of 200 jobs in wholesale and retail trade and 100 jobs each in food and kindred products; leather and leather products; contract construction; finance, insurance and real estate; and business services more than offset employment losses of 100 jobs each in textiles and government. Since last April, local resident employment has increased by 2,900, unemployment has declined by 1,100, and the local unemployment rate has dropped by 3.2 percentage points.

PORTLAND STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

Following normal seasonal trends, economic conditions in the Portland Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) evidenced marked improvement from March to April. The area unemployment rate dropped from 5.3 percent in March to 4.5 percent in April, while resident employment rose from 96,800 to 100,000. The resulting unemployment rate of 4.5 percent in April compares favorably to the rates registered a month ago and a year ago of 5.3 percent and 7.1 percent, respectively. The improvement in economic conditions in April was spearheaded primarily by employment gains in the nonmanufacturing sector. Seasonal increases were evidenced in retail trade, business services, contract construction, and hotels and other lodging places. Manufacturing employment increased slightly, led by gains in transportation equipment. The area unemployment rate of 4.5 percent was well below the rates of 7.5 percent and 7.6 percent recorded by the state and nation.

RUMFORD LABOR MARKET AREA

The unemployment rate in the Rumford Labor Market Area rose from 9.1 percent in March to 9.3 percent in April. Resident employment rose from 18,580 in March to 18,740 in April, with employment gains in retail trade, services, and government. However, total joblessness in the area also increased from 1,850 to 1,930 as a result of layoffs in lumber and wood products and the shoe industry. Last year at this time, 2,500 local residents were out of work and the unemployment rate was 12.1 percent.

WATERVILLE LABOR MARKET AREA

Following the trend set by both the state and the nation, the unemployment rate in the Waterville Labor Market Area fell for the third consecutive month in April. Resident employment increased from 20,560 in March to 21,280 in April, while the number unemployed fell from 1,660 in March to 1,470. The resulting unemployment rate of 6.5 percent is 1.0 percentage points below the rate for the area in March. The April rate is also well below the unemployment rate of 9.8 percent recorded a year ago. At that time 20,420 residents were employed and 2,230 were jobless. This April employment in the manufacturing sector evidenced small declines, with gains in paper and allied products and apparel unable to entirely offset losses in lumber and wood products. The nonmanufacturing sector evidenced seasonal gains with slight improvements in construction and transportation and public utilities.



CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE BY MAINE LABOR MARKET AREA, NEW ENGLAND STATES, AND THE UNITED STATES¹

AREAS	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			RATE			RESIDENT EMPLOYED		
	Apr. 84 ²	Mar. 84 ²	Apr. 83 ³	Apr. 84	Mar. 84	Apr. 83	Apr. 84	Mar. 84	Apr. 83	Apr. 84	Mar. 84	Apr. 83
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
AUGUSTA	30,540	29,830	29,040	2,220	2,290	2,530	7.3	7.7	8.7	28,320	27,540	26,510
BANGOR-BREWER	44,800	43,500	43,700	2,700	3,000	3,600	6.0	6.9	8.2	42,100	40,500	40,100
BATH-BRUNSWICK	24,310	23,600	24,970	1,280	1,530	1,560	5.3	6.5	6.2	23,030	22,070	23,410
BELFAST	11,680	12,010	11,090	1,550	1,110	1,810	13.3	17.6	16.3	10,130	9,900	9,280
BIDDEFORD-SANFORD	34,700	33,800	32,900	2,400	2,900	3,300	6.9	8.6	10.0	32,300	30,900	29,600
BOOTHBAY HARBOR-WISCASSET	8,200	8,000	7,630	730	880	770	8.9	11.0	10.1	7,470	7,120	6,860
CALAIS-EASTPORT	14,890	14,210	15,480	1,990	1,810	2,760	13.4	12.7	17.8	12,900	12,400	12,720
CARIBOU-PRESQUE ISLE	21,520	20,830	20,910	2,830	3,080	2,900	13.2	14.8	13.9	18,690	17,750	18,010
CENTRAL PENOBSCOT	3,620	3,460	3,470	280	280	380	7.7	8.1	11.0	3,340	3,180	3,090
DOVER-FOXCROFT	6,760	6,520	6,650	530	450	740	7.8	6.9	11.1	6,230	6,070	5,910
ELLSWORTH	21,240	19,570	20,590	1,930	2,010	2,370	9.1	10.3	11.5	19,310	17,560	18,220
FARMINGTON	13,050	12,890	13,520	1,280	1,210	1,360	9.8	9.4	10.1	11,770	11,680	12,160
FORT KENT-ALLAGASH	4,980	5,030	4,860	900	640	1,020	18.1	12.7	21.0	4,080	4,390	3,840
GREENVILLE	1,430	1,510	1,270	120	90	190	8.4	6.0	15.0	1,310	1,420	1,080
HOULTON	5,220	4,910	5,110	500	460	770	9.6	9.4	15.1	4,720	4,450	4,340
KITTERY-YORK	22,720	20,110	21,120	640	800	970	2.8	4.0	4.6	22,080	19,310	20,150
LEWISTON-AUBURN SMSA	40,300	39,500	38,500	2,700	3,100	3,800	6.7	7.8	9.9	37,600	36,400	34,700
LINCOLN-HOWLAND	5,960	5,810	6,080	460	420	850	7.7	7.2	14.0	5,500	5,390	5,230
LIVERMORE FALLS	6,310	6,170	6,000	710	860	770	11.3	13.9	12.8	5,600	5,310	5,230
MADAWASKA-VAN BUREN	4,380	4,160	4,540	560	600	740	12.8	14.4	16.3	3,820	3,560	3,800
MECHANIC FALLS	2,530	2,260	2,400	250	280	380	9.9	12.4	15.8	2,280	1,980	2,020
MILLINOCKET-EAST MILLINOCKET	5,170	5,030	5,440	300	280	500	5.8	5.6	9.2	4,870	4,750	4,940
PATTEN-ISLAND FALLS	2,220	2,130	2,360	300	190	490	13.5	8.9	20.8	1,920	1,940	1,870
PORTLAND SMSA	104,700	102,200	96,200	4,700	5,400	6,800	4.5	5.3	7.1	100,000	96,800	89,400
ROCKLAND	18,480	18,350	17,860	1,570	1,620	2,320	8.5	8.8	13.0	16,910	16,730	15,540
RUMFORD	20,670	20,430	20,700	1,930	1,850	2,500	9.3	9.1	12.1	18,740	18,580	18,200
SEBAGO LAKES REGION	11,880	11,520	11,120	760	840	1,150	6.4	7.3	10.3	11,120	10,680	9,970
SKOWHEGAN	21,760	21,240	21,230	2,330	2,520	2,980	10.7	11.9	14.0	19,430	18,720	18,250
SOUTHWEST PENOBSCOT	8,620	8,490	8,250	1,110	1,250	1,220	12.9	14.7	14.8	7,510	7,240	7,030
WATERVILLE	22,750	22,220	22,650	1,470	1,660	2,230	6.5	7.5	9.8	21,280	20,560	20,420
STATES: ⁴												
MAINE	545.3	529.1	525.6	41.0	44.3	53.7	7.5	8.4	10.2	504.3	484.8	471.9
CONNECTICUT	n/a	1,610.3	1,599.9	n/a	75.6	104.8	n/a	4.7	6.6	n/a	1,534.7	1,495.1
MASSACHUSETTS	3,036.0	3,002.0	2,929.2	153.0	175.0	196.2	5.0	5.8	6.7	2,883.0	2,826.0	2,733.0
NEW HAMPSHIRE	n/a	505.1	491.8	n/a	24.4	31.7	n/a	4.8	6.4	n/a	480.7	460.1
RHODE ISLAND	479.6	476.9	477.7	31.8	34.0	43.2	6.6	7.1	9.0	447.8	442.9	434.5
VERMONT	n/a	265.2	265.8	n/a	20.2	21.3	n/a	7.6	8.0	n/a	245.0	244.5
NEW ENGLAND STATES ⁴	n/a	6,387.6	6,290.0	n/a	373.5	450.9	n/a	5.8	7.2	n/a	6,014.1	5,839.1
UNITED STATES ⁴	112,152	111,828	109,875	8,525	9,057	11,035	7.6	8.1	10.0	103,628	102,770	98,840

¹ All estimates shown are not seasonally adjusted. Estimates for the State and sub-State areas have been benchmarked to the latest Current Population Survey estimates for the State.

² Preliminary estimates.

³ Revised estimates.

⁴ In thousands.

⁵ Not Available

Labor Market Information Services



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EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

STATISTICAL
DATA
SERIES: ES-4-84

APRIL 1984

SUPPLEMENT TO THE STATEWIDE MONTHLY NEWS RELEASE

A BRIEF ANALYSIS COVERING SELECTED MAINE LABOR MARKET AREAS

AUGUSTA LABOR MARKET AREA

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The employment situation in the Augusta Labor Market Area improved in April. An increase in resident employment from 27,540 in March to 28,320 in April and a slight decline in the number unemployed from 2,290 to 2,220 resulted in an unemployment rate of 7.3 percent. This rate was 0.4 percentage points below the March unemployment rate and was well below the 8.7 percent recorded a year ago. At that time, 2,530 persons were jobless, while 26,510 local residents were employed. Increased employment this April was due in large part to gains in the nonmanufacturing sector. Employment gains were noted in contract construction and in wholesale and retail trade. Slight over-the-month gains were also registered in the manufacturing sector. These were evidenced in textile mill products and apparel. Such gains managed to offset employment losses in paper and allied products, leather and leather products, and food and kindred products. During April both the state and national unemployment rates lowered to 7.5 percent and 7.6 percent, respectively.

BANGOR-BREWER LABOR MARKET AREA

During April employment in the Bangor-Brewer Labor Market Area improved somewhat, largely due to seasonal growth in the nonmanufacturing sector. Resident employment increased from 40,500 in March to 42,100 in April, while unemployment fell from 3,000 to 2,700. The resulting unemployment rate dropped from 6.9 percent in March to 6.0 percent in April. The local unemployment rate remains well below unemployment rates for both the state and nation at 7.5 percent and 7.6 percent, respectively. Last year at this time, the unemployment rate for the labor market area was 8.2 percent, and 3,600 residents were jobless. Improvement in employment from March to April was seasonal in nature and occurred in contract construction, wholesale and retail trade, and government. Manufacturing employment remained constant. Employment gains in textile mill products and paper and allied products were offset by losses in transportation equipment and leather and leather products.

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